

## In the Claims

### Canceled Claims

Claims Please cancel claims **12-17 and 18-20** as being drawn to non-elected groups II and III. Applicant expressly reserves the right to file divisional applications directed at the non-elected subject matter.

### Current Status of Claims

1      1.(**currently amended**)    A method of prevention sulfidation of metals comprising the  
2      steps of:

3                adding to a fluid including a sulfiding compound an effective amount of a  
4      preventative composition, where the composition reduces or prevents sulfidation by  
5      deactivating metal sites involved in the formation of atomic sulfur and/or sulfides at or on  
6      a surface of the metal and where the effective amount of the preventative composition is  
7      between about 0.2 ppm and about 0.8 ppm.

1      2.(**currently amended**)    A method of stopping sulfidation of metals comprising the steps  
2      of:

3                adding to a fluid including a sulfiding compound an effective amount of a  
4      preventative composition, where the composition stops or arrests further sulfidation of the  
5      metal by deactivating metal sites involved in the formation of atomic sulfur and/or sulfides  
6      at or on a surface of the metal and where the effective amount of the preventative  
7      composition is between about 0.2 ppm and about 0.8 ppm.

1      3.(**withdrawn**)

1      4.(**withdrawn**)

1      5.(**currently amended**)    The method of claims 1-2, wherein the composition comprises  
2      a compound having a higher affinity for the metal surface than the sulfiding compound.

1       6.(currently amended)   The method of claims 1-2, wherein the composition comprises  
2       an effective amount of a phosphorus in the form of a phosphorus-containing compound to  
3       reduce sulfidation of the metal.

1       7.(canceled)

1       8.(canceled)

1       9.(canceled)

1       10.(canceled)

1       11.(canceled)

1       12.(canceled)

1       13.(currently amended)   The method of claim 8 6, wherein the phosphorus-containing  
2       compound comprises phosphorus, phosphines of formulas PH<sub>3</sub>, PRH<sub>2</sub>, PR<sub>2</sub>H, and R<sub>3</sub>P where  
3       each R is the same or different and is a C1 to C20 carbon-containing group including alkyl,  
4       aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl; phosphites including ammonium phosphites; alkali metal phosphites;  
5       alkaline metal phosphites; phosphites having organic counter ions; phosphates including  
6       ammonium phosphates; alkali metal phosphates; alkaline metal phosphates; phosphates  
7       having organic counter ions; pyrophosphates including ammonium pyrophosphates; alkali  
8       metal pyrophosphates; alkaline metal pyrophosphates; pyrophosphates having organic  
9       counter ions; polyphosphates including ammonium polyphosphates; alkali metal  
10      polyphosphates; alkaline metal polyphosphates; polyphosphates having organic counter ions;  
11      thiophosphates; thiophoshites; or other phosphorus-containing compounds capable of

12 inhibiting sulfuric corrosion of metal surfaces, or mixtures or combinations thereof.

1 14.(original) A method of pre-treating metal surfaces comprising the steps of:

2       contacting a metal surface with an effective amount of a pre-treating composition  
3 sufficient to deposit onto the metal surface a protective coating, where the coating prevents  
4 or reduces sulfidation of the metal by deactivating metal sites involved in the formation of  
5 atomic sulfur and/or sulfides at or on the surface, where the effective amount of the  
6 preventative composition is between about 0.2 ppm and about 0.8 ppm.

1 15.(original) The method claim 14, wherein the pre-treating composition comprises an  
2 organo-phosphorus compound and the method further comprising the step of:

3       oxidizing the organo-phosphorus compound to a phosphorus oxide compound.

1 16.(original) The method claim 14, wherein the composition comprises a compound having  
2 a higher affinity for the metal surface than the sulfiding compound.

1 17.(original) The method claims 14, wherein the composition comprises an effective amount  
2 of phosphorus in the form of a phosphorus-containing compound.

1 18.(canceled)       The method claims 14, wherein the effective amount of the phosphorus  
2 is between about 0.1 ppm and about 5 ppm in the fluid.

1 19.(canceled)       The method claims 14, wherein the effective amount of the phosphorus  
2 is between about 0.2 ppm and about 0.8 ppm.

1 20.(currently amended)   The method claims 14, wherein the phosphorus-containing  
2 compound comprises phosphorus, phosphines of formulas PH<sub>3</sub>, PRH<sub>2</sub>, PR<sub>2</sub>H, and R<sub>3</sub>P where  
3 each R is the same or different and is a C1 to C20 carbon-containing group including alkyl,

4 aryl, alkaryl or aralkyl; - phosphites including ammonium phosphites; alkali metal phosphites;  
5 alkaline metal phosphites; phosphites having organic counter ions; phosphates including  
6 ammonium phosphates; alkali metal phosphates; alkaline metal phosphates; phosphates  
7 having organic counter ions; pyrophosphates including ammonium pyrophosphates; alkali  
8 metal pyrophosphates; alkaline metal pyrophosphates; pyrophosphates having organic  
9 counter ions; polyphosphates including ammonium polyphosphates; alkali metal  
10 polyphosphates; alkaline metal polyphosphates; polyphosphates having organic counter ions;  
11 thiophosphates; thiophoshites; or other phosphorus-containing compounds capable of  
12 inhibiting sulfuric corrosion of metal surfaces, or mixtures or combinations thereof.